

W&M Campus Living

SOPHOMORE YEAR EXPERIENCE

The Division of Student Affairs strives to create an engaging learning environment where community is strengthened and individuals flourish. We want students to **THRIVE**, with each experiencing optimal functioning in three key areas that contribute to success and persistence



(Schreiner, Louis & Nelson, 2012)

FOUNDATION

William & Mary has a strong first-year experience for its new undergraduate students, one that is grounded in a residential community model. FYE's "Finding Your Experience" pathway consists of year-round events held in collaboration with campus colleagues. An intentional focus on the second-year will expand and broaden our outreach and support for students at a critical time. These offerings will help fully **connect students with the Tribe** community, enhance their **overall university experience**, and **support their engagement** in traditions and opportunities.

The sophomore slump is a researched concern and initiatives to respond to such issues are considered field best practice. While piloting events, we have learned that colleagues across campus recognize these post-first-year challenges, but no one office can meet the need alone. Our goal is to create opportunity, increase capacity and collaboratively fill the sophomore year transition gap.

THE TRANSITION RESEARCHED CHALLENGES

- Reduced motivation
- Deciding on an academic major
- Decreased faculty contact
- Navigating personal relationships
- Becoming an engaged community member
- Less targeted institutional support
- Disconnect between ability and outcome

W&M OPPORTUNITIES

(consistent with recommended strategies)

- Study Abroad/Global Education
- COLL 200 and 300 curricular requirements
- Service-Learning & Community Service
- Undergraduate Research
- Living-Learning Communities
- Cohen Career Center Second-Year Programs
- Student Leadership Foundation

ACTION

To create an experience that supports the holistic development of students during an overlooked, yet critical academic and social collegiate juncture.

First Year Experience will expand its role - and with campus and community partners - pilot a "Forming Your Experience" pathway in AY19/20.

Residence Life will implement a two-year residency requirement, beginning with the Class of 2023, while exploring additional academic, social, and cultural living and learning communities.



FORMING YOUR EXPERIENCE

THEME PROGRAM SERIES WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Health & Wellness
Leadership Development
Personal Values & Identity Development
Academic & Career Development

COLLABORATIVE OFFERINGS

Sophomore Swag & Sweets
Sophomore Quest
Sophomore Leadership Retreat
Making a Housing Decision
Student Financial Planning
Spring Leadership Retreat
Off-Campus Residency Transition

SENSE OF BELONGING



- a basic human need
- fundamental motive, sufficient to drive human behavior
- takes on a heightened importance in certain contexts, at certain times, and among certain populations
- related to, and seemingly a consequence of, mattering
- can be affected by the intersection of social identities
- engenders other positive outcomes
- must be satisfied on a continual basis **AND** changes with circumstances, conditions, and contexts

(Strayhorn, 2012)

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- fosters engagement with new peer groups and encourages the development of meaningful relationships with those unlike themselves (Tobolowsky, 2008; Schaller, 2010)
- provides supportive environment for under-represented students (ex: GLBTQ, of color &/or faith beliefs) to reflect on and explore intersecting identities (Graunke & Woosley, 2005; Siegel, 2011)
- de-stigmatizes and levels access to resources and networks for first-generation students (Vuong, Brown-Welty & Tracz, 2010; Schreiner, Louis & Nelson, 2012)

COMPARISON INSTITUTIONS

Brown University + *

Christopher Newport University *

Clemson University

Dartmouth University +

Duke University + *

George Mason University

Georgetown University

Harvard University *

James Madison University +

Longwood University *

Miami University, Ohio *

Old Dominion University +

Princeton University *

Shenandoah University *

Stanford University +

Tufts University

University of Connecticut +

University of Delaware

University of Mary Washington + *

University of New Hampshire

University of North Carolina

University of Notre Dame + *

University of Virginia

Vanderbilt University *

Virginia Commonwealth University +

Virginia Tech

Wake Forest University *

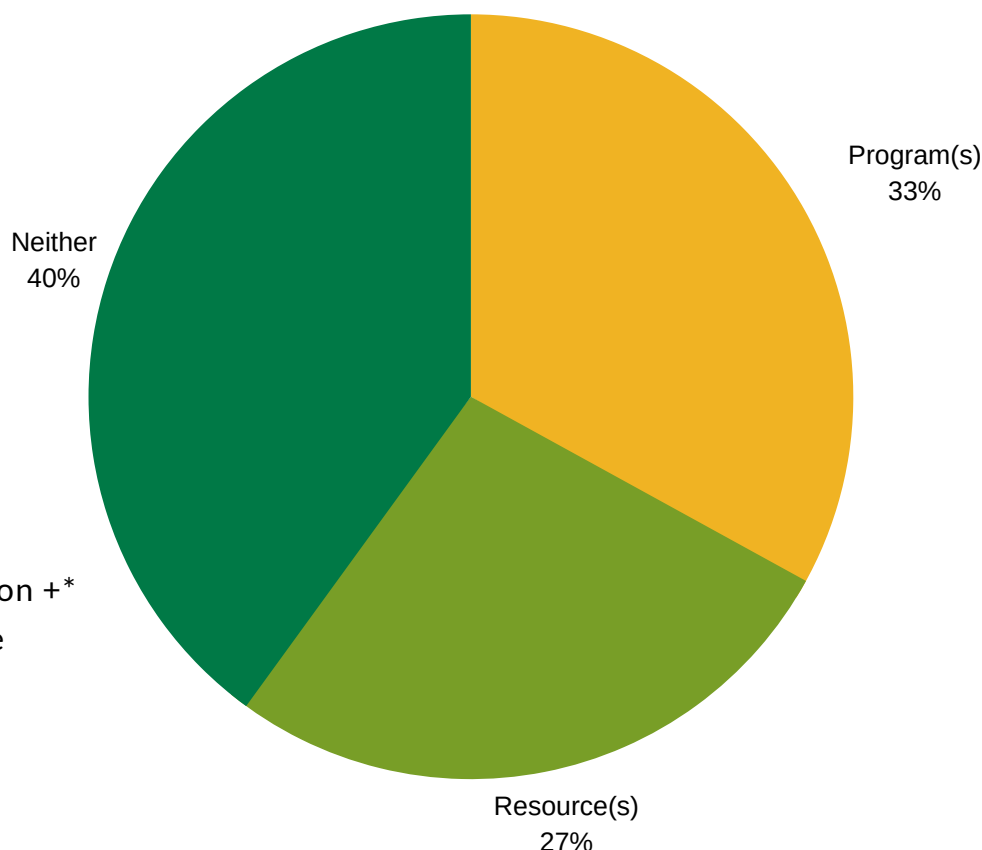
Washington University

Yale University *

+ offer sophomore initiatives

* two-year residency requirement

SOPHOMORE INITIATIVES OFFERED



TWO-YEAR RESIDENCY

- Over past six years, more than 75% of sophomores have selected on-campus housing
- Provides greater access/touch point to student needs (Young, Schreiner & McIntosh, 2015)
- Residency consistently connected to:
 - sense of fit and satisfaction with institutional choice (Young, Schreiner & McIntosh, 2015)
 - positive student development and learning outcomes (Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005)
 - higher likelihood of degree completion (Schroeder & Mable, 1994; Lopez & Wodtke, 2010)
 - deeper participation in university events and co-curriculars (Graham, Hurtado & Gonyea, 2018)

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